

# THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL,

OR,

Political, Commercial, and Literary Gazette.

Vol. VI.]

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1819.

[No. 262

## A Plain Statement.

The complaints that occasionally reach us through anonymous channels, we would readily answer privately, if we had any clue to guide us in finding the persons from whom the complaints come. As this, however, is denied us, we must endeavour to remove them publicly, and shall state them in the order in which they occur.

*First.*—It is objected to us that we confine our Journal too much to Asiatic information, and seldom give any of the entertaining *jeux d'esprit* contained in the English Papers that reach us here.

In reply to this, we desire to state a fact not perhaps generally known, that upwards of One Hundred Copies of the Journal are transmitted to England for circulation in that country; besides nearly an equal number divided between the continents of Europe and America; the shores of the Mediterranean; the Red Sea; the Persian Gulf; the Cape; Mauritius; Eastern Islands, and China; to all of which parts, information from India is of paramount interest, and is courted with avidity from the very circumstance of its general paucity before the removal of the restrictions from the Press gave room for the free communication of local intelligence, and the expression of public opinion on questions of public interest.

That with regard to entertaining jokes and *jeux d'esprit* from English Papers, we are not desirous of being so full, but we trust at least, that we are more select than our contemporaries; and that we feel no remorse in making this object give way to others of a higher nature, inasmuch as we prefer utility to mere entertainment, altho' we are always happy at having it in our power to blend them together.

*Secondly.*—It is urged that though our types are good, they are too small for all eyes; and that the Paper on which we print the Journal is not sufficiently clear to admit of its being always read with pleasure; while our Establishment is said to be incomplete, because we have not Sets of Hebrew, Arabic, Persian, Greek, Algebraic, and Astronomical characters, which often obliges us to make temporary shifts to supply them.

To this we simply answer, that when the Printing Materials were purchased with the Copy-right of the Two Gazettes on whose decline the Calcutta Journal was founded, the Types and Presses were deemed to be the worst in Calcutta, and the Papers printed with them were scarcely legible. By an extraordinary degree of trouble, and a rejection of a vast quantity of the worn materials, a sufficient portion of the good was retained to send forth the early Numbers, as the best printed of any Newspaper that had been known in India. A large supply of perfectly new Types, from the Government Gazette Press,—a portion of the stock of the Guardian Press,—and subsequently a third supply from the Office of the Oriental Star,—has added largely to the effectiveness as well as to the expense and value of the Establishment.

In addition to this, the Sum of *Twenty Thousand Rupees* has been some time since remitted to England for the purchase of a complete Set of New Machine Presses, of the latest construction, with a full supply of the best Types, English Paper, a Lithographic Apparatus, English Workmen,—and in short, every thing necessary for a complete Establishment suited to the execution of our labours in the most perfect manner. These facts will shew, we hope, that we have not been entirely regardless of even mechanical improvement.

*Thirdly.*—It is alleged, that we are not sufficiently attentive in noticing the favours of our Correspondents, stating the grounds of our rejection of the many Communications that reach us, and thanking them individually for such as we approve and publish.

The best answer to such a charge will be, perhaps, to state simply the routine of daily duty which the Editor has to perform. It must first be premised that he stands alone and unassisted in any and every department of his duty as an Editor;—and that there is not a hand to which he has ever yet delegated what may be called his Editorial duties, whether in sickness or in health—in buoyant spirits or in despondency; and that the Correspondence, Book-keeping, Collection of Bills, Dispatch of Dawk, and the many subordinate duties, which are never considered to belong thereto, are all executed under his own immediate eye, which unity of inspection combined with division of labour, is the only

thing that renders it possible for the daily duties of the Office to be got through at all.

The time and order of these duties are generally as follows:—The Editor is most frequently at his desk at six o'clock, the morning hour for exercise; and in the two hours of quiet that he thus enjoys before the labours of the day, properly so called, commence, the arrangements for that day's occupations are made. The daily Dawk frequently brings a dozen private Letters to be answered; often twenty public ones relating to change of station, remittances, &c. &c.; and seldom less than half a dozen Communications, besides all the Gazettes of the other Indian Settlements, for examination previous to publication; besides 30 or 40 Chits, as they are expressively called, from persons in Town, all of which must be answered. The private Letters are necessarily replied to briefly; the public ones relative to accounts must all be answered accurately; and those enclosing Communications to be published must be examined minutely.

From the illegible manner in which these last are often written, it frequently happens that they can only be deciphered by the Editor himself. These must therefore be fairly written out and copied by his own hand for the Printers. In such as can be read by others, the defects of language, if any, with the punctuation, capitals, division of sentences and paragraphs, which those who first write for the public eye pay so little attention to, must all be remedied. An hour is sometimes caught in the middle of the day to write on original subjects, but more frequently whatever is written as Editorial matter is done at such short intervals of five and ten minutes as can be seized between the almost incessant interruptions of the day.

Towards the close of the afternoon, the proof sheets are brought to be read with copy; and from this copy being mostly manuscript in all kinds of hand-writing, there are often unavoidably a hundred errors in a page. The second reading, or revising as it is called, lessens this number; but sometimes even after the third reading, it is necessary to look them over again.

The Editor's labours thus seldom begin later than 6 in the morning,—rarely close before 7 or 8 in the evening,—are often extended to 10, and occasionally till even midnight, before he retires. This excessive application, as contrasted with the freedom and even leisure of a sea-life, has already made several serious attacks on his health, and he believes that nothing but an unabated zeal to repay with his labours the distinguished approbation shown to them, and the still more powerful claims of a beloved and dependant family, could bear him up against so severe a pressure of duties.

He appeals, therefore, to the indulgence of those who may feel themselves neglected in not having their Communications immediately replied to,—whether there are not some palliations at least for such apparent neglect.

*Fourthly.*—It is objected to us that we make an unwarrantable departure from the usual courtesy of Indian practice, in requiring reference from our Country Friends to Agents in Town for payment of their accounts, and are too pressing for punctuality to our Friends at the Presidency for discharge of their Arrears.

To this we have to answer,—that notwithstanding the extraordinary liberality of the Supreme Government in the arrangement which it authorized regarding the Daily Transmission of the Journal to all parts of India, the Sum paid by us regularly into the General Post Office, for the transmission of Papers into the interior, is about *Three Thousand Rupees* per Month. That the whole expence of the Establishment averages about *Eight Thousand Rupees* Monthly, which must be punctually paid, as the persons among whom this sum is divided are of a class who could not subsist on credit. And lastly, that a large deduction is made in the form of Commission to the Sircar,—for ensuring his punctual payment of the Bills given into his charge at the end of certain fixed periods.

We trust that these observations, which have been dictated purely by a desire to remove objections that have been widely urged against us in the points recapitulated above, will shew that we are neither indifferent to the great end of all human efforts, in extending the sphere of our utility to the world, nor to the equally binding obligation of meeting all the private claims on us, as far as a conscientious discharge of our duties will admit.

## General Summary of News.

**Subathoo.**—Our Friend at this Station has transmitted to us a continuation of his interesting Narrative of a Journey through the regions of the Himalayas, which will extend in the next portion, to the arrival of the Travellers at a Chinese town, which formed the limits of their journey in that direction.

Some rain had fallen at Subathoo on the 13th of November, and the high mountains were covered with snow. There was a rumour in that quarter, that by some new arrangements, Sir David Ochterlony's command would not embrace the mountainous district, which was spoken of as a subject of regret.

**Neemutch.**—A Letter from this station dated November 15, informs us that the left wing of the 1st Battalion 5th Regiment of Native Infantry, under Captain Braddon, was expected to reach that place on the 17th, at furthest, when the 1st Battalion 1st Regiment Native Infantry would proceed to its destination on the following day.

**Neemutch.**—A letter from this Station dated the 17th of Nov. says,—"The Relief has commenced here; the left wing of the 1st Battalion 5th Regiment Native Infantry, marched in here yesterday morning, the same morning the 1st Battalion 1st Regiment Native Infantry, was inspected previous to its departure, by Lieutenant Colonel Ludlow C. B. who, as well as the Commandant of the Corps, gave Entertainments on the occasion."

The Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion 1st Native Infantry was pleased on this occasion to issue the following Orders.

*Detachment Orders, Neemutch, 16th November 1819.*

"The Commander Officer was well pleased with the Soldier-like appearance, of the 1st Battalion 1st Regiment Native Infantry under arms this morning. Lieutenant Colonel Ludlow takes the present occasion of the approaching departure of the 1st Battalion 1st Regiment Native Infantry, to express his approbation and thanks to Major Bellingham, Commanding, and to the Corps at large, for the good internal discipline and orderly conduct manifested by them for the period of 18 months that they have been under his command."

A Note attached to this Communication says, It is due to this Corps to state that it has been on the constant move almost for the last two years, and very deficient in European Officers, only two being in the ranks at the inspection,—the other eight being Native Officers. It is hoped the Superior Authorities will remove this evil, so prejudicial to the discipline of a Corps.

**Kernerah Camp.**—We have a Letter from the Corps that left Neemutch on their second day's march. They were not passing the road by Kotur, but over some rugged Ghauts, the Corps itself by one and the Baggage Train by another, which would shorten the distance and time of their march considerably.

**Muttra.**—A Letter from Muttra, dated November 25, says, Wheat is selling here at 18 seers per Rupee, other grain in proportion, at a much higher rate than might be expected from the appearance of the crops in the vicinity, owing to the scarcity which prevailed in the lower provinces. The weather during the greater part of the present month has been clear and cold, but the last two days have been cloudy, rather sultry. Four troops of the 3d Cavalry are expected about the 1st proximo, from Neemutch, to relieve four troops of the 4th Cavalry, who will immediately march from the above mentioned station.

**Jionpoor.**—A Letter from a Friend and Correspondent at this Station, dated Nov. offers us the following useful and interesting information from the interior.

In consequence of the rain which fell on the 12th, 13th, and 14th of this month, all the crops have assumed a very flourishing appearance. The poor orders of cultivators, had been previously unable to sow their lands, from inability to purchase seed, the small quantity which the frosts of last season had permitted them to reap, having been entirely consumed as food, or sold to pay their rents—Those, who had been in habits of lending seed, lost so much last season, that they had refused to make further advances. I have been sowing a few Oats and some Lucerne, and yellow Clover by way of experiment, and lands ready ploughed were offered me, in every direction, by tenants who were unable to procure seed to sow them after they had prepared the soil; some of which, paying the expenses of ploughing, I accepted.

The rain however has altered the scene completely, and at present I could not procure a beegha if I wished it, for the lenders of grain for seed, seeing a strong probability of recovering their former balances, have opened their stores, and not a patch of arable land will remain unsown. Grain rose in price after the rain, but it was on account of the increased demand for seed; it has again fallen, and is now selling Wheat 11 seers (of 96 rupees weight) for the rupee, Barley 13 seers, Maize 15 seers, Bajra 16 seers, &c. &c. being still treble the price it was four years ago, and nearly eight times the price it was at the time of Cheyt Singh's rebellion.

I perceive that many of your Correspondents talk of an artificial scarcity, and give other inadequate reasons for the rise of the price of Grain. There is a great scarcity of Grain in this part of India, and should any accident occur to the crops now in the ground, a famine must be the result; but this is not sufficient to account for the great increase of price above mentioned. The fact is that though the Settlement which Government has made with the Zemindars is unchangeable, and although these persons have no right to raise their demand of rent upon tenants living on the soil, or to oust them while they pay the rents regularly; and notwithstanding there is, at the very least, one third more land in cultivation than there was at the time of the Settlement, the rent of land has risen threefold, and no Zemindar will accept rent in kind, (that is to say, half the produce) who can by any means, fair or unfair, get his rent in cash. The Zemindars have various means of evading the right of the resident tenant to hold his land at a fixed rate, independent of their power to oust on failure of regular payment, of which they seldom fail to avail themselves. Should an estate be sold by Government for arrears of revenue, all leases become void, and a very improvable estate is frequently thrown in balance that it may be sold for this purpose only. Except from this cause, from quarrels between joint owners, and intrigues in various departments, I believe no estates are ever sold. The fixed Settlement is so light that all arrears of revenue arise from some of these causes. The rent of land being thus raised, the natural consequence is a rise in the price of its produce, and extreme misery and starvation among the lower orders; for the rise of the price of labor does not follow the rise of the price of provisions in this country, until after a considerable interval.

Another cause of the rise in land rent is to be looked for in the cultivation of Indigo; from 3 to 4 rupees per Beegha are given for land for this purpose, and I imagine that one third of the land in the province has, at some period in the last 20 years, been sown with Indigo, whereas formerly from 1-10 to 2-8 was the usual rate. With such an inducement to oust the Cultivator of Wheat and Barley, it is not to be wondered at that every landholder should exert himself to the utmost to effect a measure so profitable, independent of the future advantages to be derived from the destruction of the old lease.

Upon an average it may be fairly stated that, of the lands held on lease by Brahmins and Rajpoots, 7-10ths have risen from 10 annas per beegha, to 1 rupee eight annas; of the lands held by the lower castes, half has risen from 1 rupee to 2 rupees eight annas; one fourth from 1-8 to four rupees; and one fourth from two to five rupees.

In this I of course do not include poppy lands, or land on which vegetables are cultivated; those let from 5 to 15 per beegha. The beegha fixed by Mr. Duncan is equal to nearly two thirds of a statute acre.

The magnetic variation was 1. 45. East, observed at Ghaseepoor, in 1814; at present it is 2. 45. here at Jionpoor.

**Moorshedabad.**—A Letter from this station, dated December 4th, informs us that Major Thomas Lawrie, C. B. whose death we announced in our Obituary of Tuesday last, was interred on the 3d instant, at Berhampore, with the usual Military honors, and attended to the grave by the Officers of H. M. 59th Foot, and of the Battalion of the Native Infantry at that station.

**Mindy Ghaut.**—A Letter from this place dated 27th of November, says,—that the weather was getting cold and cloudy, and the country appeared covered with wheat and barley in a forward state. Cotton was also in sufficient abundance, but held up its price in an unusual manner, being fully as dear there as it is quoted in Calcutta.

**Chittagong.**—A Letter from hence, dated the 4th of December, states that about the 9th or 10th instant, the right wing of the 1st Battalion 16th Regiment, were to march from thence for Dinapore.

**Bareilly.**—Our letters from the interior contain more favorable accounts respecting the price of grain, and the general appearance of the crops, than we had some little time ago any reason to expect. From these we select the following particulars extracted from a letter dated Bareilly, the 21st of November. It will perhaps ultimately be discovered that no actual scarcity exists, but that the speculators in one part of the country have been hoarding up their stock of grain for the supply of other quarters, where the very same charitable intentions are probably entertained with regard to them:

Our crops are very promising, and we have a plentiful Khurreeff Harvest, but the demand from the Southward prevents grain getting cheap here—wheat 14 seers—coarse rice 18 seers,—bajura 28 seers—chunch 12 seers furd—moonge 14 seers—mote 19 seers—muka (Indian corn) 26 seers—jowahur 26 seers. The rubber crops are nearly all sown, and have come up very well; a little rain, (and which it seems inclined to give us) would do much good.—Oil 3½—ghee 2 seers 2 chatta—cotton 2 seers 4 chatta—our seer is ponderous being 105 rupees Furruckabad Sonat, and our pansairee 525 rupees.

We have had two or three frosty mornings. Moorcroft has gone up by the old pass, (the one we went in 1812,) called the Nectee one.

I am afraid he is too late—as few of the Bhootnals will venture across with him just now—you shall hear if he succeeds, as I have a man with him who is to leave him the day he crosses. [Mr.]

**Saugor Island.**—Since our last statement relative to the clearing of Saugor Island, it appears that Dr. Saubolle has been appointed by Government to succeed Dr. Dunlop in the Medical establishment of the Island, and by the Committee, to act as Deputy Superintendent in case of the absence of Mr. Plumet.

We regret to add that Mr. Plumet has been under the necessity of returning to the Presidency, having been attacked by a putrid fever which prevailed at the Island.

The Committee have humanely directed Dr. Saubolle to leave the Island also for some time, whenever his health should seem to require such a removal. [Times.]

**Bombay.**—The Bombay Gazette last received furnishes the following articles of information:—

**Bombay Nov. 17.**—The Reliance, with Sir George Cooper and family on board, appeared off the Port early on Tuesday morning, but owing to the strong Northerly wind did not enter the Harbour until the afternoon.

Sir George landed about 1 o'clock at the New Pier, with the usual honors due to his rank.

The Transports Orient, F. T. Upton Castle, Francis Warden, and Conde de Rio Pardo, of the respective burthens of 594, 600, 410, and 430 tons, making a whole of 2034 tons, and carrying 1146 Troops and Followers, sailed under the convoy of the Honorable Company's Brig Vestal, for the Gulf of Persia, on yesterday afternoon.

This we suppose is the most powerful European Force that was ever known in these Seas, and we trust, sufficient to substitute peaceful habits, for lawless depredation.

**Teak wood.**—The Oak of India; this is one of the finest woods in the world. It grows both crooked and straight, there is scarce a purpose to which it cannot be turned, and it is worked with great facility. Ships are built entirely of it, sometimes their Masts and Yards are also made of it. A cubic foot of Teak properly seasoned and fit for the purpose of Ship-Building, weighs 53 lbs. whereas a cubic foot of Oak weighs 62. The Teak of Canara, Malabar, and of the Coast to the North of Bombay, as far as Surat is reckoned the best; next to that the Java, and last that of Pegu; on examining some Teak from Siam, it appears to be quite as good as that of Malabar; the Chinese build a great many large Junks, wholly of Teak, at Siam.

A Ship built at Bombay or Surat, will be very good at 30 years; she will run 15 years without any repair to her bottom, at the expiration of which however she will require new nailing. This is supposing her to be iron fastened. Teak has an oil that preserves Iron, whereas Oak has an Acid that corrodes it; a ship Copper-fastened will last an incalculable time.

Ships built in Bengal, do not last more than 20 years; their timbers and many other parts are of the different woods, their Beams and Planks being only of Teak brought from Pegu. The None-such, a ship built by Colonel Watson, about the year 1780, was lost in the River of Bengal about 1802, and was found to be quite decayed.

The universal demand for this wood has induced the Government to make enquiries and to order surveys of the Forests, the building of three or four large Ships in Bombay, in little more than three years having risen the price of timber considerably. We have now in the Navy, 4 line of Battle Ships 5 or 6 Frigates, several Brigs, 6 or 8 Store Ships, and as many Indiamen, which will no doubt convince the people of England, of the vast importance of their Colonies in the East, and lead them to adopt the building of them in India, where no comparison can be drawn either for durability or expense. Four Indiamen of 1200 Tons and one of 800 have likewise been built since 1800.

If we except the Teak, there is scarcely a wood either in India or Europe that is protected against the depredations of these destructive Insects known by the Name of Termites or White Ants; the oil this wood contains is no doubt its safeguard. It is only the Teak in its mature state that contains this oil, for when put of a proper age it resembles, in colour, our lighter Firs, more than the Oak. In its immature state it is used as Rafters for the roofs of houses, and is destroyed in a very short time by those Insects.

It abounds on the Coast of Malabar, from Latitude 9 to 15, that is from Anjengo, as far as Carwar, on the coast of Kanara; the Koncan produces little; and on Bombay, and Salsette, there is little or none; the Forests commence again at Bassein, and continue nearly as far as

Surat. It is remarked that Malabar and Kanara produce more strait than crooked Timber, and that the coast to the Northward produces more crooked than strait. Many Ships built at Cochin have Knees of Black wood (Sisam.) Some Forests of Teak are found in the Northern Circars, in the vicinity of Coringa, and on the Banks of the Godavery. There is but little in Bengal. Crossing to the Eastern shores, the whole coast from Cape Negrais to Queda, abounds with this most valuable wood which crosses the Peninsula here about, as it is found in abundance at Siam, where the Chinese build all their large Junks. The Island of Java, situated in 6th South, also contains extensive forests of this wood of a most excellent quality.

**Baroda.**—The following is a communication from this place, under date of the 3rd of November, 1819:

At about 10 o'clock last night, I observed a beautiful white arch in the Heavens, perfect in its form, and terminating in the Eastern and Western horizons, there was a bright firmament, interspersed with brilliant stars, and the moon had risen at her full.

I waited for more than half an hour, to see whether this unusual appearance would disappear, diminish, or change its position, neither of which it did, and this I was able to ascertain correctly, by taking two intermediate fixed objects, as points of connection of sight, with the lower part of the arch's center; and having two fixed objects at the horizontal termination thereof. The coldness of the night, deterred me remaining out any longer, (being an Invalid) so I retired to rest fully impressed with a conviction that,

"There dwells a noble pathos in the skies,

"Which warms our passions, proselytes our hearts:

"How eloquently shine the glowing orb!

"Demonstrating great truths in style sublime,

I have heard, that rainbows sometimes appear by night, in the Moon's shine. The Lunar Rainbow is formed exactly in the same manner as the Solar; by the bright beams of the Moon striking upon the bosom of a shower. However, as the unclouded firmament placed the existence of a Lunar Rainbow out of the question, and as the Milky-way is a broad white path, or track, encompassing the whole heavens, and extending itself in some places, with a double path, but for the most part with a single one. I really am at a loss to account for this unusual appearance in the Heavens.

**Madras; Nov. 23.**—The Courier of this date, contains the following paragraphs:

After a long interval of unusually fine and sultry weather, the rains again set in on Sunday morning, and the temperature has since been pleasant—a large supply of rain, however, is still required, and present appearances to sea-ward do not lead to the conclusion that we shall soon have it.

A new scheme of Government Lottery has been published for Rupees 6,12,500, which are divided into two classes. The drawing of the first class will take place on the 10th of January.

But little of local novelty has occurred for us to notice. Changes, and rumours of changes, as usual at this time of the year are current.

Patrick Cleghorn, Esq. has been appointed Registrar of the Supreme Court.

**Prince of Wales Island.**—The last series of Gazettes from this Presidency, of the dates of October 11th, 30th, and November 6th, furnish the following articles of information from that quarter.

**Penang.**—The Epidemic which for the last two years has committed such fatal ravages throughout India, but from which we of this Island have hitherto providentially escaped, has at length, we grieve to announce, made its appearance amongst us. During the last week, the deaths of more than fifty natives have been reported—chiefly of the Chooliah tribe, and of those who resided in marshy and confined situations, or who were aged, or of feeble constitutions. Every possible precaution has been taken, and assistance promptly afforded by Government, by the Police, and by the Profession, in the establishment of receiving houses (as local hospitals;) in the distribution of proper remedies, and of instructions for their application; and in the employment of several intelligent natives of different casts as ambulatory assistants, that the means of relief may be at hand, in any of the streets of this crowded town, and in the most populous villages, at a moment's notice. The old Secretary's Office has also been rented by order of Government for the reception of patients, where they will receive the benefit of advice, medicine, and attendance. We therefore confidently hope, that by the blessing of Heaven on human skill and care, this dreadful scourge may be speedily removed from our shores.

#### PUBLIC NOTIFICATION.

JOHN MACALISTER, Esq. having been appointed provisionally, by the Honorable the Court of Directors to succeed to Council at this Presidency, and that Gentleman having arrived in the Honorable Company's ship Larkins, has this day taken the Oaths and his Seat as Member of Council accordingly.

By Order of the Honorable the Governor in Council, W. A. CLUBLEY, Sec. to Govt.

\* In Pegu.—The Teak Forests are mostly situated on the Banks of the Rivers. Were the Vegetation is amazingly rapid from the Forests being quite inundated during the rainy season; the Teak tree grows to an immense size. We have seen a canopy of 90 feet long and 7 broad. Great quantities of oil are extracted from the Teak tree by the Peguans.

On Tuesday morning last the 26th instant, the Honorable Sir Ralph Rice embarked on board the H. C. Ship Bridgewater, for China, under salutes, from the Fort and the Indiaman due to his Rank. We regret very much to add, that indisposition is the cause which has driven the learned Judge (though we trust but for a short period) from our Island.

On Saturday last, Carripeit Arackell, Esq. Armenian Merchant of this Island, sent a public Letter to the Commissioners of the Court of Requests, wherein, after many expressions of loyalty towards our King and Government, and stating that during a residence here of sixteen years, he had acquired a handsome independence, he declares his wish of evincing his gratitude by an act of benevolence towards the poor debtors, then in confinement in the Court of Requests Jail, offering to pay the debts and liberate the whole of them immediately. This was accordingly done; and sixteen persons were thus set free from prison whose joint debts amounted to about four hundred dollars.

Mr. Arackell, with admirable humanity, observes, that one of his motives is a reflection on the present disease which is afflicting the poorer classes, and that the families of many of those in confinement were probably suffering under its influence.

We understand that the Commissioners have thought it a duty incumbent on them to make known publicly to Government the very liberal conduct of this worthy Armenian Gentleman.

The daily average number of deaths for the last week, by Cholera, (in the Town,) has been about 25, of whom 4-5ths were Chooliahs. The epidemic is said to have reached Kedah, and to be raging there with great violence.

We beg to call the attention of our readers to the two following paragraphs: by the first of which it will be seen, that our neighbours to the Eastward are obliged, even in their navy, to shelter themselves under our national colours, as the best means, not only to secure the respect of the natives, but even to protect themselves from the consequences of their resentment. The second article, if perfectly correct, and we have no reason to doubt its accuracy, is of a very atrocious nature indeed; by which it appears that a Netherland's ship of war has been piratically plundering an Arab merchant-vessel, though furnished with a Dutch pass; and that the Nokedah applied in vain for justice to the Dutch Resident of Minto, who after putting his people in irons, referred him to the Supreme Authorities at Batavia. We doubt not that the Dutch Government will severely punish their naval officers, if proved to have been guilty of such a scandalous outrage and manifest violation of the law of nations, and will also in such case, make ample restitution to the unfortunate sufferers.

#### Extract of a Letter from Bencoolen.

"When we were off the Palimbang River, an accident occurred which is worth mentioning. We observed at anchor a sloop of war, with English colours, and bore down so near as to communicate with her. On making the signal, however, she hauled down the English and hoisted Dutch colours, and soon after sent a boat on board us with two officers, who informed us of their defeat (which you have heard of) at Palimbang, and said they came to apologize for having used English colours, which they had been obliged to do as a protection against the pirates.—The ship had her hull full of shot holes."

Statement of the Nokedah of the Arab Ship Mansoor, taken down in writing from his relation of it at Singapore, on the 25th of Sept. 1819.

"The Ship Mansoor, Syed Abu Bekr Kap, master and part owner, of 120 tons, and 40 men, sailed from Gressic, bound to Palimbang, on the 25th Shabaan, having first received a regular pass, which is now in the Nokedah's possession, and which I have seen. Prior to his departure from Java he was ordered to hoist Dutch colours.

"On arriving at the mouth of the river of Palimbang on the 22nd of Ramzan, (16th July,) they found there, a Dutch ship of war, of one tier of guns, called (as the Nokedah pronounces the word) *Ayah*: the Nokedah was ordered to go on board soon, and as he did so, 20 men were sent to his vessel as a guard. The captain asked for his pass, which was shewn to him, and, on looking at it, he said to the Nokedah, "Very well, you must go with me to Minto." He was detained on board the Dutch ship, and in 3 days they arrived at Minto, the Mansoor accompanying them. When they came to anchor, another party was sent on board the Mansoor, who plundered her of every thing which was of any value to them, broke open every box and chest, and did not spare even the clothing of the Nokedah, whose arms, shawls, kris, watch, &c. they seized upon. He thinks the value of the goods which they robbed him of or destroyed, was full five thousand dollars; the only reason they gave for their conduct was, that the Palimbang people were bad people "orong jahat." When they began to break open the boxes, a younger brother of the Nokedah, and another of the principal Arabs on board, endeavoured to prevent them by interposing, but they were obliged to submit, each having received a stab with their bayonets. After plundering the ship, the crew (with the exception of five men) were taken on shore, and driven before the Resident who put them in irons and sent them to prison. The Nokedah was sent on shore the following day, and carried his pass to the Resident, who, looking at it, found there were 50 coyangs of salt on board the Mansoor, consigned to him, by the

Resident at Sourabaya, which he said he would send for. On the Nokedah begging for justice and restitution of his property, the Resident said, "What can I do? it is all gone—the vessel is a ship of war, and I can do nothing? if you want justice you must go to Batavia." The Nokedah replied, the winds were contrary, and what could be done for him at Batavia? He might have gone there if the violence had been done at sea, but it was done in port under the Resident's eye, and where the property was still to be found.—The Resident repeated, he could do nothing, and having taken out his own salt and paid him the freight of it, he discharged the people and told the Nokedah he might go where he pleased. The Nokedah accordingly came to Singapore, where he might be in safety, and where he is desirous of selling his ship."

Penang.—A private Letter from the Island, dated the 7th of November, says,—I am sorry to say we have got the Cholera amongst us, which for the last ten days has been carrying off the natives (the Islanders) at the rate of from 20 to 25 a day, and the day before yesterday a resident on the Island Mr. Carnegie died of it most suddenly. It has not however yet got amongst the Troops, but seems principally confined to poor and penurious inhabitants of the place.

### Tooth Ache.

Receipt for retarding the decay of a tooth, and preventing it from aching, in consequence of change of weather, or cold, or acid.

Clean out the hollow of the tooth with a tooth-pick, and wash the mouth well with warm water; with the point of a tooth pick drop into the hollow of the tooth, one or two drops of diluted muriatic acid the strength of which must depend on the state of the tooth and its nerve, repeat it, and use it as strong as can be borne without pain. This will remove most of the carious matter from inside the tooth, and take away the black colour of it, and the foetid odour of the caries, which is very perceptible.

After this, fill the hollow of the tooth with Gum Mastick, and by biting on a little ball of Cotton, the Gum Mastick will be forced into the hollow, so as to fill it completely; it will pressed in, it will remain for a fortnight, after which it should be changed. There is always a collection of curious matter under the plug of a tooth, whether it be of gold or lead.

The Gum Mastick will perfectly protect the nerve from acids or cold, and is easily renewed without the aid of a Dentist.

The Hindoostanee name for Gum Mastick, is Roomjee Mustikee.

### Boat Offices.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

Sir,—I observed in your Journal the notice of very improper conduct, on the part of the Calcutta Boat Offices. Pray insert the following facts on the subject of their abuses.

A Gentleman left Calcutta for the Province of Benares, on the 8th of September last. He had applied to a Boat Office for a Pinnace and three other Boats, for which he paid 1005 Rupees. His property was placed on board them, at Chandpaul Ghaut, and the Boats were to be removed thence on the 8th of September, (by an order from the Office) to Baug Bazar, where he intended to embark.

Engagements of a very urgent nature altogether, prevented this Gentleman from remaining after his embarkation, to make any enquiries.

On the 7th, one of the Boats was missing, and has never since made its appearance. From Beibampoor, Mr. G. of the Boat Office was applied to, for the purpose of ascertaining what had become of the Boat. This reply was "I understand that by some means the Boat drifted down the River, and run athwart a Boat in the stream and sunk." Of the source of the information, or the means adopted, to ascertain its truth, or recover any part of the property, no mention is made; but a Question may be started, "How far the Loser is responsible for the value of the Boat?"

I much suspect that the whole of the property has been reloaded and disposed of in Calcutta, and I have no doubt of Mr. G. being responsible for the conduct and honesty of the crew supplied by him. It would have had an appearance of some regard for the character of the Office and the interest of his employer, if Mr. G. had mentioned, that he had ascertained personally from the Boat's crew what was the real state of the case, and that he had exerted himself in some manner to recover the property lost. I imagine also, that the crews of the other Boats are in collusion, for though they have been examined by a Magistrate, they persist in denying all knowledge of the fate of the Boat, and declare that they do not know the names of its crew. Some persons indeed state that it was perhaps upset by the Bore; but I do not think that on the 7th September, the full moon being on the 4th, such an accident was possible, nor does it tally with Mr. G.'s Letter.

I trust that an application to a Calcutta Magistrate, which I have recommended to be made, will cause an enquiry, that may throw some light on this dark affair.

Your obedient Servant,

Jinpoor, Nov. 25, 1819.

J. M.

## Letter from Colonel Skinner.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

Sir,

In your Journal of the 21st of October, I have read with feelings of deep concern, a Letter addressed to the Editor of the Asiatic Journal, a London Monthly Publication\* and signed "A BENGAL CAVALRY OFFICER," in which, the Corps that I have the honor to command, is charged with an act of base and complicated treachery.

It has frequently been my pride and happiness to find my humble services honored with approbation, and rewarded by the thanks of my superiors; but never till now, have I been placed under the disagreeable necessity of obtruding myself on the notice of the public, for the purpose of contradicting calumnious misrepresentation, and little did I expect that such necessity would ever be imposed on me, by a Bengal Cavalry Officer.

I trust, I shall be acquitted of the presumption, of wishing to offer my opinion, with respect to the question which the Author of that Letter has taken upon himself to decide; but, I cannot conceal my astonishment at finding, that an Officer high in Rank and Trust, should for a moment conceive he was "rendering an useful Service to Government and the Honourable Company" by openly discussing and pointedly censuring the measures of the Government by which he was employed and trusted; or, that he was justifiable, in conveying to the world through the medium of a Periodical Publication, an insinuation, that the present Government of India, was at once blind to the true interests of the Honourable Company, ignorant of the acts of its predecessors, and unacquainted with the occurrences of the former Mahrattah War.

My immediate concern, is the Statement contained in the following passage:—

"In the following month of September, Holkar assembled the whole of his Army, between Deeg and Muttra, threatening a Detachment, posted at the latter place, who deeming the post untenable, determined to retire to Agra, by a forced march (thirty two miles). During this march, three or four hundred men of Captain Skinner's Corps, which formed part of our Detachment, deserted; and, as they went off, plundered the baggage."

To this statement, I reply, that never on this or any other occasion, did my Corps, or any part of it, plunder the baggage; that, during the march alluded to, my Corps and it only, remained in the rear of, and safely escorted, first to Funnah, and afterwards to Gao Ghaut, the small portion of baggage that was brought off; and, lastly, that, no desertion whatever, took place from my Corps during that march, far less one of three or four hundred men.

As the Bengal Cavalry Officer, has most unaccountably confounded together, occurrences distinct and different both as to time and place, the most satisfactory refutation of his misstatement, will be a plain narrative of the events of that period, in which my Corps had any share.

In September 1814, I received Orders to proceed from Saharunpoor, and join a Detachment posted at Muttra, on the right bank of the Jumna.

Having reached Hunssee Gunge, situated in the Doab, on the left bank of the above river, and immediately opposite to Muttra, I commenced crossing my Corps, for the purpose of joining the Detachment then menaced by Holkar's Army.

Six Russalahs, under my Brother, had already passed over, and three others had proceeded to the Ghaut, for the same purpose, leaving with me in Camp, two only; when I received the unpleasant intelligence, that the three last dispatched Russalahs, had instead of crossing the Jumna, wheeled off in a body from the Ghaut, towards Koorjah in the Doab.

My Khas or Bargeer Russalah, without waiting for Orders, instantly saddled, lighted their matches, and indignantly demanded to be led against the Cowards, who had deserted in the hour of danger, and disgraced the Corps.

Leaving the other Russalah for the protection of my Camp, I proceeded with my Bargeers in pursuit of the Deserters; and, having approached within a hundred yards of their rear, halted my party, and advanced alone, to expostulate with these deluded men, and, if possible persuade them to return to their duty.

Remonstrances producing no effect, I had recourse to threats and reproaches addressing the latter chiefly to the Russaldar, who had

caused and headed the defection, and who, attended by three or four Suwars, had now approached me.

That villain, without making any reply, coolly turned to one of his attendants, and, pointing to me, said, "Is that fellow your mother's husband, that you allow him to abuse me, and live?"

The Suwar, with a promptness which shewed the measure to have been preconcerted, discharged his matchlock at me, shot my horse dead, and brought me to the ground nearly stunned by the violence of the fall: I could indistinctly hear the shout of my Bargeers as they rushed on to revenge, as they conceived, my death.

Notwithstanding the great disparity of numbers, the conflict quickly ended in the rout of the Deserters. Ninety of the three hundred lay dead on the field, and the remainder sought and found shelter, within, or under the walls of an adjacent Fort dependent on Hattass, and from which, a fire was opened on my men, as they attempted to continue the pursuit.

The above is a full and true account of the defection, punishment, and dispersion of my three Russalahs, which are nevertheless represented by the Bengal Cavalry Officer, as having five days afterwards deserted from a Detachment they never joined, plundered baggage they never saw, and that too, during a Retreat on the right bank of the Jumna, which they never reached.

This disagreeable affair thus terminated, I returned to my camp late in the evening, and on the following morning crossed the Jumna, joined the Detachment, and reported the whole transaction to the Officer commanding.

While the Detachment remained encamped at Muttra, I lost by a further desertion, a Picket of fifty men; but as they went off from their post on the out-line duty, they could have no opportunity of plundering baggage.

These are the only desertions, which have ever taken place from my Corps on Service; and, I think, it is abundantly proved, that in neither case, was the business of plundering baggage added to the guilt of desertion.

With respect to the desertion of my Picket, I should, from regard to the others, have remained altogether silent, could I have done so, without incurring the imputation, of wishing to conceal circumstances of misconduct on the part of my own Corps.

I have now arrived at the Retreat to Agra, the last operation of the Detachment, and the scene of the imputed plunder and desertion.

On the day of the Retreat, I was ordered, in case the Detachment moved, to place my Corps in rear of the 1st Native Cavalry. Owing, most probably, to the great distance of my Camp, from that of the Regular Troops, no farther Orders, written or verbal ever reached me, nor did I receive any intimation of the Troops being in motion until the whole of them had quitted their Camp.

I finally left my ground about two hours, after every other Corps had moved; and my progress being retarded by my Guns, Tumbrils and Magazine Gharees, all drawn by Bullocks, I unavoidably remained in the rear of such Baggage as had been moved, and was thus enabled to combine its safety with the protection of my Guns.

For a service so trifling, and almost involuntary, I never claimed the slightest merit; for, in performing it, there was neither difficulty nor danger, the enemy never appearing during the march, nor attempting to impede the retreat; but I trust, I may be excused for mentioning it, now, when after a lapse of Fifteen years, without any previous surmise of such misconduct, an Officer has thought proper to charge my Corps with plundering the very Baggage which it contributed to save.

For the truth of my statement, I confidently appeal, and refer to the Officers now alive, who were present with that Detachment; if I have falsified or misrepresented a single occurrence, I am liable to detection and exposure.

In another part of his Letter, the Bengal Cavalry Officer, thus favors the Public, with what he is pleased to term, the "result of his subsequent experience."

"From the foregoing brief Statement of Facts, it is very evident, that Corps of Irregular Cavalry are not to be depended on; that when they are pressed by difficulty or danger, they will invariably abandon their posts, and at the moment too, when their services are most particularly required."

As I have already trespassed unreasonably on your columns, I shall reserve the examination of the above decision, for another Letter, in which, I shall endeavour to shew, by a reference to the several affairs in which my Corps has been engaged, that the conclusion drawn by the Bengal Cavalry Officer, is, with respect to my Corps at least, as unwarranted, as the statements by which he has endeavoured to support it are unfounded.

I remain, Sir, your obedient Servant,

Hansie, Nov. 10, 1819.

J. W. SKINNER.

\* The original of this Letter will be found in the London Asiatic Journal for May, 1819, No. 41, Vol. 7, page 480. The Publication is one of the most respectable, and decidedly the most accurate on Indian Affairs, of all those published in London; and the Re-publication of the Letter from it in this Country, has already done essential service in furnishing a favorable opportunity of removing an unfounded imputation which might have otherwise remained long unanswered.—Ed.

## Military and Moral Character of the Indian Sepoy.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

Your Journal of the 6th of Nov. which reached me this morning, contains a Letter from AN ADJUTANT of BENGAL INFANTRY, commenting on certain brief remarks, *On the Moral and Military Character of the Bengal Army*, which you did me the honour to insert in your excellent Journal, on the 2d of the same month.

I feel gratified, and flattered, by the manner, in which this Officer speaks of those remarks, in his opening and concluding paragraphs, nor am I less pleased with the other parts of his Letter, which, though intended to shew the fallacy of my opinions on two particular points, tend, I am inclined to think, most decidedly to establish their truth. The only difference between us, appears to be, that I have stated the facts (as I believe them to exist), whilst he has shewn the causes and motives, from which these facts arise.

With regard to the first point, (my having mentioned *Avarice*, as one of the vices of the Hindoo Sipahce) your Correspondent is wrong in supposing that I am not acquainted with the large remittances, frequently, nay, constantly, made by the Sipahce to his family. I am perfectly acquainted with this circumstance, and from the knowledge of it, was, perhaps partly led to entertain the idea and belief, that *Avarice* is one of the very few vices which the Sipahce possesses. The ADJUTANT of BENGAL INFANTRY would appear to imagine, that every remittance so made, is entirely for the benefit of the family of the Sipahce; but he will find, on more careful enquiry, that, by far the larger proportion of them, are for the Sipahce's own benefit. The remittances are made to his relations or friends, it is true; but are they appropriated, (I speak generally, of course) to the service of the remitter? In some instances, the money is placed in the hands of a Shuraff; in others it may be employed in the purchase of cattle, or in increasing the small farm of the Sipahce himself, so as to afford him the prospect of a competency, should he, at any time, wish to leave the toils of war, for the ease and pleasure of reposing under his own fig-tree.

"Miles Nautique per omne,

"Audaces, mare qui currunt, hac mente Laborem

"Sese feire, Senes, ut in cetta tuta recedant,

"Aiunt, cum Sibi sint congesta Cibaria."

HORACE.

Now, Sir, I am very far from blaming the Sipahcees, for this natural wish to secure themselves against any vicissitudes that may befall them; but at the same time, I am decidedly of opinion, that this wish (praiseworthy even, though it be) does often lead them into avarice and penuriousness. *Crescit amor Nummi*, &c. is too true to be quoted, but it is marvellously true, notwithstanding.

As for what, THE ADJUTANT of BENGAL INFANTRY observes, regarding the neat and clean appearance of the Hindoo, and the dashing undress of the Moosulman *Loochur*, I agree with him, in toto; but I am really quite at a loss to divine, what part of my remarks this argument may be intended to reply too; and equally so, to discover how his *Q. E. D.* can be deduced from what he has said on the subject; but, let this pass, I wish not to cavil at either words or logic.

Let me here express my regret, at having in my former Communication, omitted to specify one, amongst the other virtues of our Sipahcees, for the recollection of which, I am indebted to your Correspondent, the INFANTRY ADJUTANT, and of which I have as high a sense as he can possibly have himself; I mean, Sir, the kindness and affection on almost all occasions, exhibited by the Sipahce to any of his relations, who may happen to be in distress, or want of employment; and this, most probably, your Correspondent may adduce as a proof that *Avarice* is not one of their vices. This is true, individually, but will not hold good generally; and generally only can I be supposed to speak, either in this, or my former Letter on the subject. In my former Letter, my assertion on this point, will be found to be very general indeed; "*Avarice (more particularly amongst the Hindoos) is generally met with, &c. &c.*" and by this assertion Sir, I still do, and must abide (from positive conviction of its truth) in spite of all the virtues which I have attempted to portray, and by which my esteem and attachment have been secured to those men whose cause I should be sorry to injure, by drawing them as perfectly free from every fault or failing of human nature. If the picture be too highly coloured, it must lose in truth more than it can gain in beauty.

The next point on which the ADJUTANT of BENGAL INFANTRY says he thinks I am wrong, is one, on which he proves most positively and decidedly, that his own opinions coincide most entirely with mine. He is perfectly right in supposing, that by *Falsehood*, I merely meant *want of veracity*, that "*Falsehood is the most prominent vice in the Sipahce's character.*" But, how does he proceed to refute this? Why, Sir, by merely remarking (exactly what I said myself, in other words) that "the Natives of India are not taught in their childhood, to hold a lie in that abhorrence in which we hold it"; and consequently that "we can

hardly expect the man to be more virtuous than the boy." For a farther refutation of my remark, he observes that a liar is never scouted or shunned by his comrades; and in short, Sir, proves, by several other arguments, that the Sipahcees are addicted to *Falsehood*, (in the sense in which I used the word) to a very great degree; but then, they are so artless, and their lies are so easily detected, that it is a matter of small moment, and in short much less criminal than a good European *Bourgeois*. Now, Sir, even supposing your Correspondent to be a connoisseur in these matters; to be capable in short, of deciding on the relative merit or value of different lies, (so much per pound or yard for instance,) agreeable to their texture and colour, still I must confess, in a moral point of view, I can see but little difference between the artless, and flimsy, or the well-connected and well-supported lie; however, even allowing that there is a difference, this is nothing whatsoever to the present argument.

I asserted that *Falsehood*, (or want of veracity) was a prominent vice in the character of the Sipahce. THE ADJUTANT of BENGAL INFANTRY says I am wrong, and to prove me so, details the causes of the vice being so common; and attempts to palliate its immorality, as far as it has reference to Natives of this country. How far he has succeeded in this attempt, is not connected with the present question; but it is very certain, that he has added 'confirmation strong' to the very opinion of mine, from which he at first appeared to dissent. Believe me, Sir, there are few things that would afford me greater pleasure than to be convinced that my opinion in this instance is incorrect, but of this I fear there is little hope. The Letter of the ADJUTANT of BENGAL INFANTRY, has tended only to render me more convinced than I was before, of the truth and justice of the remark.

A bad advocate, Mr. Editor, is worse than none, and your Correspondent, will, I hope, allow me to say, without giving umbrage, that in the present instance, he has not, in my opinion, proved himself a good one. His general feelings towards our Sipahcees, accord so much with my own, that it would look like vanity were I to praise them; however, I may be allowed to express the high degree of satisfaction which I feel, in having been the cause of drawing forth on behalf of our gallant Sipahcees, the powers of a Writer, who evidently feels a warm attachment to their interests and honor, no less than his Letter displays the gentlemanly language and urbanity of a Soldier.

Your's obediently,

Upper Provinces, } AN ADJUTANT of BENGAL CAVALRY.  
Nov. 19, 1819. }

## Medical Parallels.

To the Editor of the Asiatic Mirror.

SIR,

As I have been, during the last six or seven years of my life, excepting at short and uncertain intervals, deprived of access to recent publications which have appeared on Medical subjects in Europe, it is very lately I heard of, and only since the day before yesterday I have had an opportunity of perusing, the luminous work on Inflammation, published by my revered Preceptor, Professor Dr. John Thomson of Edinburgh. In the hope that this letter may prove the means of exciting something like a blush in the faces of those Medical men, who to the obstruction of science, and I might add destruction of human life, have so inveterately opposed my opinion, while their resistent stations at or near the Presidency allowed of their consulting this work, and comparing the facts detailed in its pages, with the inferences which observation alone led me to draw respecting the pestilence; I am induced to send you the following extracts, and solicit admission for them into the columns of your valuable and liberal paper.

Dr. Thomas observes, speaking of 'the gangrene produced by the eating of a particular kind of unsound or diseased rye; This is a species of mortification which has not been observed in this country; but it is well known, and has been frequently observed, in different parts of the Continent of Europe, particularly in France,\* where it has been repeatedly known to prevail in some districts, as an Endemic disease. Indeed most of the knowledge which we at present possess, respecting chronic or dry gangrene, has been obtained from watching the progress of the disease produced by eating unsound rye. This disease has been observed to occur in those districts, in which rye forms the principal food of the inhabitants. It occurs only, however, in those districts after very rainy and moist seasons; seasons in which the grain is liable to be affected with a particular disease, well known in France by the name of the *Ergot*, or the cockspur in rye. In this disease the grains of rye grow to a large size, acquire a black colour, and have a compact horny consistence.† Few seasons pass without the rye containing more or less of this vitiated grain; but it is produced chiefly in rainy and moist seasons, and in those years it is produced in such quantities as to form sometimes near-

\* I request the attention of the Times Editor to this fact.

† This is precisely the case with the diseased rice.

ly one fourth of the whole produce of rye. It is in those seasons only in which the ergot or cockscur is very abundant, that the mortification makes its appearance; and it has from this circumstance, been very naturally inferred, that this spur or disease in the rye was the cause of the mortification,' p. 538. This celebrated Physician continues, 'M. Bossau, Surgeon to the Hospital of St. Antoine, in Dauphiny, has remarked, that the disease was not communicable by infection; that it attacked indiscriminately men, women, and children; that there were about four hundred parishes attacked with this disease, each of which contained six or seven patients.' 'The degree of fatality attending the progress of this mortification in different districts, appears to have been very various. M. Duhamel mentions, in the Memoirs of the Royal Academy for the year 1748, that of 120 persons attacked with that complaint, of whom he had heard, scarcely four or five escaped with their lives. Langius mentions that it was equally fatal in Switzerland,' p. 543. It appears that similar to the fate of the opinion, which ascribes the present disorder to the employment of noxious rice, the opinion that rye was the cause of the disease prevailing in France, received strenuous opposition; for M. Model, a Russian Apothecary, was led to conclude, that rye vitiated with the cockscur does not possess the quality of exciting gangrene in animals. His opinion, having been eagerly adopted by some men of great reputation in France, it became necessary to bring its truth to the test of fair trial.' Accordingly, with a degree of liberality very different to the treatment which my opinion has received, 'the Royal Society of Medicine in Paris, employed M. Tessier to go into the countries where this gangrene prevailed, to collect a sufficient quantity of the cockscur rye, and to institute such experiments as seemed to him best calculated to determine a point of so much importance to society,' p. 545. In the following experiment the disease adduced bears striking analogy to the distemper which I have myself produced in inferior animals by feeding them upon noxious rice, or rice which, I have now little doubt, is affected with a species of Ergot.

'A pig six weeks old was fed with food containing an admixture of cockscur rye. On the 12th day, after this animal had taken about four ounces and a half of the rye, the extremities of the ears and feet began to assume a red colour. By the 18th day, the ears began to droop, and the tail to become red also. The belly became smaller, tense and painful, by the 22d day: the ears and tail became cold, and the animal died on the 23d, after having had some convulsive fits, and after having consumed a pound and twelve ounces of cockscur. Several inflamed spots were perceptible in the lungs, stomach, with small and large intestines,' p. 546.

Dr. Thomson then describes a most interesting and affecting case of a whole family in England affected with a horrible disease of nearly the same description; respecting which he observes, in this instance, 'if the mortification was induced by the food used, it would seem that damaged wheat, not rye, was the cause of the gangrenous appearances,' p. 550.

But if nutritious grain in Europe undergoes in this manner a change in its nature, and becomes possessed of qualities of the most poisonous description, in consequence of the occurrence of a rainy season, wherefore may not rice, which is in this country annually exposed to falls of rain greatly exceeding what take place in England and France, (and in 1817, literally suffered from a perfect deluge) become similarly affected? Time will not permit the prosecution of this subject further; yet let me inquire, if, after a detail of these lamentable facts, recorded by one of the first names in our Profession which the present age can boast, it is reasonable, or consistent with only ordinary zeal for the cultivation of science, that my experiments should be derided by my Medical Brethren, and my inferences condemned without even the facts upon which they rest, receiving the slightest attention or indeed being listened to.

Allahabad

November 25, 1819.

Your's very faithfully,

R. TYTLER, M. D.

### Letter of Obadiah.

In the Bengal Hurkaru of yesterday, is the following unlucky and ill-timed paragraph.—It appeared on the morning of our Reply to the Editor of the Government Gazette, which the Writer had neither the patience nor the prudence to wait for, before he committed this premature step. The paragraph is as follows:

"We noticed in the Government Gazette of yesterday, some just and well-merited castigation, administered to the Journalist, for his wanton and wretched misrepresentation of strictures, which had been communicated to him, on the conduct of the Editor of that Paper. It is indeed wonderful to observe, how sedulous the Journalist is in contriving gross and unjustifiable methods of venting his spleen, which carry the principles of detection and exposure in their substance, Seeing this

however, and knowing that the Man of the Public, whenever he erects his crest, endeavours to peck at all round him, we turned also to the Journal of Saturday last, and found among his acknowledgments to Correspondents, the following sentence; viz.

*The Letters of WASP and OBADIAH, on the character of the Hurkaru Newspaper, are such as we have no wish to see in our pages, whatever justice there may be in the strictures themselves.*

This forbearance is intended perhaps to appear as proceeding from an amiable and refined delicacy; however, we happen to think that false delicacy is as mean in the conduct of a Free Press, as wilful malignity is atrocious. We, therefore, invite Messrs. WASP and OBADIAH to send their rejected critiques to us; and, if their strictures be, as represented, "on the character of the Hurkaru Newspaper," and tinged even with the shadow of justice, we shall publish them for general edification. Let them be ever so waspish in their reproof, or primly scrupulous in their analysis, no fair objection can be thereby urged against them, since we shall be enabled to profit by as much of their censure as is just, while our readers may also obtain new and useful hints to regulate their estimate of our labors."

On reading this, we sent the Letters invited, to the Editor of the Bengal Hurkaru, a step which we should not have thought of without such public invitation; but after reading them, he returned them, declining to make them public, tho' he had declared it was a false delicacy in a Free Press to keep these things back. Unwilling as we were to furnish an opportunity of irritation to this Writer, his present insinuations, and public call for the Letters in question, induce us to give the least severe, as a specimen of the many that reach us every week, but which, like this, we pass by often unnoticed for a whole month, as may be seen by the date. We pass no comment on it, and only regret the necessity of its appearing in our columns at all.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

As one of your Up-Country Subscribers, who has been benefited and accommodated, by your late very liberal arrangements, regarding the Transmission, Price &c. of the Calcutta Journal, I feel a pleasure in returning you my best thanks, for the independent spirit of liberality, by which those arrangements were dictated. Few, probably, of your Subscribers will take the trouble of writing, to express to you their sentiments on this occasion; and it may not, therefore, be superfluous for me to mention, that wherever I have heard the subject talked of, there has been but one feeling, regarding the benefits and convenience of the arrangements you have lately adopted, or of the spirit and the liberality which produced them. For the benefit and information of the Bengal Hurkaru, whose Intellectuals,\* (if not "disordered," as yours are supposed to be, by his sagacious Friend) appear to be of the most muddy nature, it may be necessary, perhaps, to add, that that feeling was the feeling of admiration and thankfulness.

With respect to the Editor of the Hurkaru, those who have read, his puny, abortive, but unwearied attempts to deprecate the Paper edited by you, Sir, (the Man of disordered Intellectuals) there has likewise been but one opinion. The general wish of his Subscribers and Readers, in this part of the Moofussil, is, that his Intellectuals might be blessed with a little of that disorder, which he, or his Friend, (probably one and the same person) attribute to your's. In this case, there might perhaps be some "Method in his Madness," and consequently, perchance, a little in his style; "a consummation, devoutly to be wished."

At present, Sir, I feel at a loss to decide, which affords us most amusement; the impotent Envy and Malice, exhibited in his everlasting Sarcasms against "the Journalist," or the wretched attempts at fine writing, in which these Sarcasms, as well as the generality of his Lucubrations, are conveyed. Let me recommend to you, Sir, as a good description, the following Extract from the Edinburgh Review, (No. 31, Page 182.)

"He who has seen a Barn Door Fowl flying—and only he—can form some conception of this Tutor's ("lege Editor's") eloquence. With his neck and hinder parts, brought into a line—with loud screams, and all the agony of feathered fatness—the ponderous little glutton flaps himself up into the air, and so a ring four feet above the level of our earth, falls, dull and breathless, on his native Dung-hill."

And, here, Sir, if you please, we will leave him. To yourself I beg to offer my warm congratulations, on the Superiority and Pre-eminence, which have secured you the Envy and Abuse, of more than one of your Brother Editors; and I know of few compliments, that could prove so gratifying, or be indicative of your superior merit, as the vituperative Hissings of the venomous Ropile, whom we left on the Dung-hill.

Your obedient Servant,

Upper Provinces, Sept. 23, 1819.

OBADIAH

\* Vide Bengal Hurkaru of September 2nd. To Correspondents.

## Domestic Occurrences:

## MARRIAGES.

On the 9th instant, at the Cathedral, by the Rev. T. Robertson, Frederick Liestedt, Esq. Head Assistant and Register at the Marine Board, to Miss Letitia Smart.

At Baroda, by the Rev. H. Jeffrys, Mr. Conductor N. Houston, of the Commissariat Department, N. D. G., to Miss Harriott Susanna Hatton.

## BIRTHS.

On the 6th instant, the Wife of Mr. W. T. Bennett, Proprietor of the Navy Hotel, of a Daughter.

On the 30th ultimo, Mrs. John McArthur, of a Son.

In Camp at Neemuck, on the 15th ultimo, the Lady of Lient. W. Bell, Horse Artillery Brigade, of a Son.

At Belvidere, on the 12th of November, the Lady of Major Monier Williams, of Twins—Sons.

At Bombay, on the 15th of November, the Wife of the Rev. G. Hall, of a Daughter.

At Agra, on the 5th of October, the Lady of Captain Biggs, of the Horse Brigade, of a Son.

At Penang, on the 11th of October, Mrs. Luce, wife of the Rev. John Luce, Missionary, of a Daughter.

## DEATHS.

On the 8th instant, Mr. Robert Lowe, aged 28 years. He was a servant to Captain B. Fergusson of the Boyne, under whom he had served in a most faithful manner for three years. This young man was born and educated for a higher situation in life than he latterly filled; and should these remarks ever reach the eye of his friends in England, it will be a consoling balm to his poor wife and children in their agonies of grief and mourning to hear, that as he was respected for his diffidence, honesty, and faithful attachment to his master, so he is regretted by him, whom he so conscientiously served during a long trial of integrity, and unlimited but well-deserved confidence.

On the 2nd instant, Master Frederick Richardson, the infant Son of Capt. Richardson, of the Firm of Bolton and Richardson, aged 6 days.

On the 3rd instant, Miss Mary Lane, aged 39 years.

At Bombay, on the 12th of November, Capt. J. Erskine, Honorable Company's Military Service, Madras Establishment.

At Bombay, on the 13th of November, Mr. Henry Negus, Clerk of His Majesty's ship Minden.

At Penang, on the 5th ultimo, of the prevailing epidemic, and after a very short and sudden attack of it, Patrick Carnegie, Esq. aged 41 years, son of Patrick Carnegie, Esq. of Lower Forfarshire, and a Partner in the highly respectable House of Carnegie and Co. of this Island. He was a very kind and friendly man, and his loss will be much felt in our small community. This awful warning to us all, is the first instance of death by Cholera among the European part of the population, and we devoutly trust that it may be the last.

At Penang, on the 26th of October, Mr. James Robins Palmer, Second Officer of the Honorable Company's ship William Pitt, most sincerely and deservedly regretted by his Commander and brother Officers.

At Colombo, on the 27th of October, at the Church of St. Lucia, the Most Rev. Father Louis De Souza, of the Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Nery, of Goa, and Missionary in this Island, for upwards of thirty years, aged 63 years.

## Shipping Intelligence.

## CALCUTTA ARRIVALS.

(None)

## CALCUTTA DEPARTURES.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destinations
Dec. 6	Indus	Amerc.	J. Willis	Calcutta
6	Alexander	British	B. Rogers	Persian Gulf
6	East Indian	British	D. D. Wishart	Hull
7	John Bull	British	J. Bean	Batavia
8	Argyle	British	H. Cathro	Bombay
8	Amboyne	British	D. Wilson	Port Jackson
8	Candry	Arab	Conje Callondur	Ceylon

## BOMBAY ARRIVALS.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
Nov. 8	Minden	British	W. Paterson	Trincomalee	Oct. 3
9	Hibernia	British	—	Isle of France	Oct. 3
10	Glorioso	British	John Paterson	Calcutta	Oct. 2
14	Musqueton	Arab	Bhadoor	Kutch	—
15	Aurora	British	Peter Butler	Penang	Aug. 21
16	Reliance	British	M. Pike	Madras	Sept. 12

## BOMBAY DEPARTURES.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destinations
Nov. 7	Prince Regent	British	Thos. Clifford	England
7	Bombay Merchant	British	J. Clarkson	London
10	Bussorah Merchant	British	H. Humphery	Calcutta
11	Sullemaney	Arab	Nacoda	Malay Coast

## Commercial Reports.

A letter from Penang of the 6th November states, that by the arrival of the Syren, Captain MacDonnell, from China the 20th of October, we have heard of the safe arrival of the Good Success, Captain Crockett, and also of the Waterloo, Indianman. Captain MacDonnell quotes Cotton, good Bengal, at 14 Taies; and Pepper at 16 Spanish dollars per pecul. The Syren is bound to Suva. [Hark]

## (FROM THE CALCUTTA EXCHANGE PRICE CURRENT.)

Cotton, Jaloon,	per moud	18 12	a	19 0
Cutchora,		17 12	a	18 8
Grain, Rice, Patna,		3 10	a	3 12
Patchery, 1st,		2 12	a	3 0
2d,		2 4	a	2 8
Moongy, 1st,		1 11	a	1 12
2d,		1 10	a	1 11
Ballum, 1st,		1 12	a	1 18
Indigo, Blue,		160	0	a 0 0
Blue and Purple,		145	0	a 150 0
Purple,		140	0	a 145 0
Purple and Violet,		135	0	a 140 0
Violet,		125	0	a 130 0
Violet and Copper,		110	0	a 120 0

Cotton.—We have not heard of any thing been done in this since our last; the quantity in the market is still very limited. Offers have been made at an advance of 8 annas on our former rates, and we have altered our quotations accordingly.

Ginger.—Is abundant, and finds but few buyers. It may be stated at a decline of 6 to 8 annas on our former rates.

Piece Goods.—The only alterations we have to take notice in these, are Jellalpoore Sannahs, 1st and 2nd sorts, Tandah Sannahs and Cossahs, Fyzabad Sannahs, Allahabad Mahmoodies, and Gooripore Bafiah, which have declined 2 to 5 rupees per corgie.

Salt Petre and Sugar.—Have declined about 8 annas.

Freight to London.—Notwithstanding that the number of Free Traders here at present is only one half of what it was on the 1st of December 1813, yet Freights continue as low and difficult to be procured as they have been for a considerable time past; the market being still completely bare of light goods, and there being little inducement to ship almost any description of produce under the present unfavorable advices from England. The rate of Freight may be quoted at £5 10s. to £6.

## (From the Bombay Price Current of the 17th November, 1819.)

Cotton, Ahmoed,	per Surat candy of 21 mounds or 7 cut.	210 0
Ahmoed Toomil,		240 0
Bownagur,		190 0
Bownagur Toomil,		205 0
Limree Wudwan,		185 0
Limree Toomil,		210 0
Kutch,		190 0
Kutch Toomil,		210 0
Mangrole and Pore,		170 0
Spanish Dollars,	per hundred	220 0
German Croons,		212 0
Venicians,		490 0
Gubbar,		475 0

Remittance to England at 6 months, ..... 2s 2d per rupee

Freight to England, dead weight, ..... £4 per ton

Loose Freight, ..... £5 per ton

Exchange on Calcutta, Bombay Rs. 109 per 100 Sa. Rs. on Madras.

The Price of Cotton still remains as quoted above. The consequence is, that our Indianmen now ready to sail by an Eastern passage to China, are going comparatively empty; an anomaly, that has seldom occurred in the annals of Bombay.

## (From the Madras New Price Current, for November 6th.)

## COINS.

Guineas,	10 2 each
Goldmohars, Bengal,	17 0 each
Goldmohars, Bombay,	13 12 each

## EXCHANGES.

On England, thirty day's sight, per Rupee,	2s. 2d.
On England, ninety day's sight, per Rupee,	2s. 2 1/2d.
On England, six month's sight, per Rupee,	2s. 3d.
On Calcutta, thirty day's sight, 93 Sicca Rupees per Madras Rupees	100
On Bombay, thirty day's sight, 100 Bombay Rs. per Madras Rupees	100

## COMPANY'S PAPER.

Bengal Six per Cent. Certificates, 1/2 per Cent. discount.

## INTEREST, DISCOUNT, &amp;c.

Interest allowed by the Houses of Agency, on bonds and accounts current, 6 per cent per annum.

Interest on loans, secured by Company's paper, 10 per cent per annum.

On mortgage of houses, land, jewels, &c. 12 per cent.

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